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Buzzards or Bees

Out in the woodlands two went for a walk.
They were not of one mind on what they should talk.
With the beauties of nature one was on fire,
While the other saw briars and thistles and mire.

One found fault with the clouds and the showers;
The other rejoiced in the crops and the flowers.
One, like the buzzard, only carrion did see;
The other saw honey and sipped like the bee.

Into church Sabbath morning these two persons went.
They differed on what the church service meant.
One joined in the worship in the spirit of prayer,
Which the other one somehow seemed not to share.

One sought the truth in which to delight;
The other sought errors against which to fight.
One found meat to strengthen his life;
The other found bones for contention and strife.

Let's talk of the noble, the good and the pure;
Never mention the other—unless we've a cure!
The bee or the buzzard? I choose the bee.
Honey is better and sweeter to me.

Delber H. Elliott

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A WAR OF THE AGES

Rev. Delber H. Elliott, D.D.

(Chapter one of the book, THE DOOM OF THE DICTATORS, by Rev. Delber H. Elliott, D.D., just off the press. Other chapters will follow in subsequent issues. See page five for further information regarding this book and its author.)

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? II Cor. 6:14,15

After the arrival of the automobile a half-century ago we thought it to be the last great invention possible to man. We hadn't "seen anything yet." During this short sweep of time we have passed from the horse-drawn carriage to the nuclear-powered airplane which enables man to eat breakfast in New York, lunch in Paris and be home again in time for supper.

Inventive Genius

The achievements in light, heat, and power never cease to amaze us. The modern communication system has passed from the neighborhood telephone to a wireless system whereby we can converse around the earth. We have passed from the stereoscope to the television by which we see and hear programs over the hemisphere.

The United States has more purring automobiles, humming motors, self-opening doors, electric blankets, and button-pushing gadgets than any nation on earth. Someone has called the United States "the rich fool of Luke 12 swollen to the size of a nation." But all this has not made us happy, moral or secure.

Torturing Tyrants

The sphere of the dictators has also developed after their kind. Totalitarianism is just old-fashioned tyranny reduced to a science. Instead of the club and the hangman's noose with which to dispose of its enemies one by one, stores of nuclear weapons are designed and stocked to destroy a nation in a day. Instead of brute force to bring its people into subjection, it specializes in brainwashing its victims by falsehood, treachery, and deceit.

Continual Conflict

This brings us to the *war of the ages.* It is the struggle between right and wrong, good and evil, truth and falsehood, the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. The astonishing achievements of the physical world are accompanied by new methods in the *spiritual* world. The radio, television, printing presses, and air travel are vehicles to carry the truth into all parts of the known world.

It is also true that these same inventions and discoveries are used of Satan for purveying obscenity, intemperance, immorality, and crime throughout the same world. Thus the war between right and wrong goes perpetually on. In the famous debates between Lincoln and Douglas, Mr. Douglas said: "I hold that Illinois has a right to abolish slavery, as she did; and I hold that Kentucky has the same right to continue slavery, and protect it, that Illinois has to abolish it . . . ."

Mr. Lincoln replied: "Judge Douglas contends that whatever community wants slaves has a right to have them: and so they have, if slavery is right; but if slavery is wrong they have no right to do wrong. There can be no comparison between right and wrong."

Alexis de Tocqueville, a French statesman, was sent on a mission to the United States in 1831. Then he wrote a

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THE HIGH COST OF SIN

Rev. Walter E. Isenhour
Taylorsville, North Carolina

Many people say that it costs too much to finance the church, the ministry, home and foreign missions, Sunday School, church literature, Bible Schools, orphanages, and Christianity in general; but we wonder if they ever stop to think of what sin costs.

As a nation we spend many times more for beer, liquor and tobacco than we spend for all phases of Christianity. Stop and give this a solemn, sincere thought. Just these three evils cost far more than all we give as a nation to God's great cause and kingdom. Then think of what the many other sins of the nation, and of the world, as for that matter, costs the human family.

Why don't people stop to consider what it costs to finance our courts, our jails, chain gangs, penitentiaries and prisons in general? Why don't they consider what it costs to finance tens of thousands of officers over the nation who are elected and appointed to take care of the multitude of law violators? Why don't they think of what it costs to finance thousands of lawyers who are supposed to uphold and defend the laws that are in our statute books? Why don't they sit down and count the cost of sin in their own lives? If thousands and millions of people would do this, I am made to believe they would no longer complain of what Christianity costs our country and the world. They would find it such a small amount compared to the cost of sin until they surely would cease their complaining of the high cost of the church and God's righteous cause on earth.

However, the cost of sin from a financial standpoint is very small compared to what it costs physically, mentally, morally and spiritually. Multitudes of people today are under the care of doctors and nurses, filling our hospitals very largely, because they have violated the laws of God and nature, thus bringing upon themselves sickness and disease, many of whom will never regain their health, in the meantime subtracting many years from their lives. Sin is the cause. Oh the suffering, suffering that people bring upon themselves because they live in sin and wickedness! Then consider what it costs to finance the hospitals from the standpoint of what sin has done and is doing.

Sin is very costly when we consider it from a mental viewpoint. So many wreck their minds because they sin against their bodies. Our mental institutions are taking care of unknown thousands of patients who could have been well and able to work for an honest living, and in the meantime helping their fellowmen, if they had lived clean, godly, righteous, holy lives. They are mental wrecks all because they sinned against themselves, their fellowmen and God. How sad, sad, SAD! Then think of what it costs the country to finance these mental institutions.

Sin is very costly in morals. Oh the multitudes of moral wrecks over the land and world today! People everywhere are committing adultery, drinking, cursing, swearing, hating each other, fighting and killing, dancing and frolicking and serving the devil in general, which robs them of their morals! They don't stop to think that "A good name is rather to be chosen that great riches." (Prov. 22:1) They are moral wrecks, whereas they could be noble Christian men and women, boys and girls. Then, do you tell me that the Church and Christianity costs too much?

We have briefly and partly considered the high cost of sin financially, physically, mentally and morally, but let's consider it from another standpoint—spiritually. Just here is where the awful cost of sin is finally climaxed. Think of your precious soul! Sin wrecks, ruins, curses, blights and damns the soul. Jesus asked the question, "What shall

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The Editor's Page

GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE-SECRECY

The House Government Information Subcommittee, which was set up four years ago to try to penetrate the executive secrecy curtain, says, in a 454-page report on developments during the last year, that the problem is growing worse, that executive departments are leaning more and more on "executive privilege" to hold back *unclassified* information. Reiterating its charges that the Defense Department is "managing" the news with release dates timed to "create a favorable public reaction". and concerned about the holding back by executive departments information Congress and the public have a right to know, the Subcommittee urged the public to keep banging on doors to remind bureaucrats that "public business is the public's business".

The American Political Science Association at a recent meeting was told by J. R. Wiggins, executive editor of *The Washington Post,* who spoke on this problem, that "there is in government an ingrained impulse to secrecy, induced by two wars, a cold war, by sheer size of government and by the insolence of office encountered in bureaucracy since the beginning of government." He said that some persons in the executive branch consider that they are endowed with a "non-

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LIQUOR FACTS FOLDERS

For many years the National Reform Association has been preparing a special folder, designed for wide distribution and for use in the public schools, containing in concise form the latest facts and figures on alcoholic beverages. The title of the folder is "Facts About Intoxicating Liquors And What They're Doing To America."

In the past four months over 70,000 of these folders, prepared especially for Pennsylvania, have been distributed, largely, through the cooperation of the Pennsylvania WCTU. Last month, 10,000 similar folders, prepared for the State of Illinois and ordered by the Illinois WCTU, were printed and delivered.

A new format for the folder is now being prepared and orders for 10,000 Ohio and 20,000 Michigan folders from the State WCTU organizations of these states will be filled just as soon as the printing is completed.

Orders for the folder now total over 100,000 since October 1st, 1959. They may be had at the rate of 3¢ each, $2.50 per hundred or $20.00 a thousand. A similar folder, containing national data only, is available at the same prices.

"The Coddled Octopus", a very well written temperance tract by Dr. D.H. Elliott, member of the Board of Directors of the National Reform Association, author of the poem on the cover of this issue of the *Christian Statesman,* and also of the new book, *Doom of the Dictators,* featured in this issue, has been slightly revised and reprinted. Copies of this attractive and thought-provoking, 3½ x 6¼ inches, six-page folder may be had at the very low price of 3¢ each or $2.00 a hundred. Address your orders to the National Reform Association, 109 Monitor Avenue, Pittsburgh 2, Pa.

THE CHRISTIAN STATESMAN, founded in 1867, devoted to Christian Political and Social Science, is the official organ of The National Reform Association, an organization of Christian citizens, founded in 1863. J. Renwick Patterson D.D., Editor. Published January, March, May, July, September and November at the Association's Headquarters, 109 Monitor Avenue, Pittsburgh 2, Pennsylvania. (Second class postage paid at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

REV. D. H. ELLIOTT, D.D.
Author of
DOOM OF THE DICTATORS

Out of the experience of a half-century as a pastor, many years as a national field secretary, a seminary instructor, a writer of books, pamphlets, and articles for the religious press, comes Dr. Elliott's latest and timely work, *Doom of the Dictators.*

In this volume, with clarity, brevity and apt illustration, Dr. Elliott has driven home, in terms easy to understand, Christianity's answer to dictators.

Doom of the Dictators is a searchlight on the Communist threat to our national survival. It pictures the warfare being waged between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan. It reveals the enemy attack upon both Church and State. It points to the enemies who pretend to be friends, who operate along the borderline.

This ninety-two page volume is not a treatise of despair. It assures us of the ultimate defeat of the dictators and of the eventual triumph of Christ over Satan.

You will be challenged by these chapters of hope:

1. War of the Ages
2. Claimants for Supremacy
3. Dictators Over Nations
4. Dictators in the Church
5. Church and State Dilemma
6. Near Neighbors to the Communists
7. Weapons of Warfare
8. When Democracy Was Christian
9. A Faulty Foundation
10. A Defective Building
11. Repairing the Breaches
12. Matching Our Mountains
13. The Only Conclusion

Chapter one of *Doom of the Dictators* appears on page two of this issue. Other chapters will follow in subsequent issues.

This compact treatise dedicated to the cause of Christian Civil Government can be had from the National Reform Association for only $2.00 a volume. Every preacher, teacher, statesman and layman should have a copy. Clip out the form below and mail your order today.

Doom of the Dictators
By Rev. Delbur H. Elliott, D.D.
$2.00 a copy

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The National Reform Association was represented at the annual meeting of the National Temperance and Prohibition Council in Washington, D. C., January 20-22, by Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Patterson, serving respectively as delegate and alternate. Each, upon return home, had a bout with Asian flu, which accounts in part for the lateness of this issue of the *Christian Statesman.* Resolutions of the Washington meeting are found on page six.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL TEMPERANCE AND PROHIBITION COUNCIL

We, the members of the National Temperance and Prohibition Council, meeting in Simpson Chapel of the Methodist Building, Washington, D.C., January 20-22, 1960, desire to give thanks to Almighty God for His watchful care over us since last we met, and, in dependence upon Him, we face the issues of the hour, especially recognizing the responsibility that is ours as well as that of all Christian people, to help solve the many problems which stem from the use of beverage alcohol; therefore,

Alcoholism

BE IT RESOLVED that, WHEREAS the blight of approximately five million alcoholics, affecting directly the lives of thirty million people in our society, calls for deep concern and a program of corrective action, and

WHEREAS the solution lies in the prevention of alcoholism more than in the cure of the disorder after it occurs; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that a national life totally free from the use of beverage alcohol be emphasized as the surest way to reduce the number of alcoholics; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the teaching of total abstinence from the use of alcoholic beverages to all people and especially to the youth of our nation.

Legislation

WHEREAS the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on airplanes is regarded by the pilots, stewards and stewardesses associations as endangering the safety of the public; and

WHEREAS bills have been introduced into the first session of the present Congress to prohibit the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on airplanes, one of which (H.R.1075) has been approved by the Subcommittee on Transportation and Aeronautics of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee; and

WHEREAS the recent regulations concerning drinking on airplanes are not approved by airline employee associations; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Temperance and Prohibition Council will cooperate to the fullest extent with airline employees and others to secure the passage of this airline safety legislation.

WHEREAS the persistent and increasing advertising of alcoholic beverages in newspapers, magazines, and on billboards, radio and television tends to nullify and contradict all education regarding the effects of alcohol on persons and personality; and

WHEREAS there seems to be a need for greater power on the part of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit to deal with false and misleading advertising than is granted them under present law; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we seek legislation to empower the Alcohol and Tax Unit to ban all forms of false and misleading advertising which may come under their jurisdiction, and that we continue to pursue efforts to completely ban all advertising of alcoholic beverages in interstate commerce.

WHEREAS the Federal Trade Commission and the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit cooperated in the efforts to end the "GOOD FOR YOU" advertising of the United States Brewers' Foundation; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Temperance and Prohibition Council officially record its gratitude for this timely action by these agencies of the Federal Government.

WHEREAS present practices of the Television Industry are currently under

(Continued on page nine)

DECADE OF DESTINY

(Address by Dr. Caradine R. Hooton, General Secretary of the Methodist Board of Temperance, delivered at the prayer meeting in front of the statue of Frances E. Willard in Statuary Hall, Capitol Building, Washington, D.C., preceding the International Reform Federation Breakfast in a private dining room of the new Senate Office Building to which guests were transported by means of the new multi-million dollar subway following the prayer meeting.)

It is fitting that at the beginning of this "Decade of Destiny" we should gather here at the statue and in the spirit of Frances E. Willard. This champion of freedom for women dedicated her life to the larger liberty of all people from the domination of alcohol. In pursuit of her sacrificial decision "For God, and home and every land", she devoted herself to a positive crusade of agitation, education and legislation for the protection of people from unconscionable pressures to drink.

Said she: "The beautiful brain can think out an epic—compose a symphony—invent an engine—develop a telephone and drive an airship. We are in a fight for the freedom and integrity of the minds of men. I believe that Gospel temperance shall yet transform that inmost circle, the human heart, and in its widening sweep the circle of the home, and then society, and then, pushing its argument to the extreme conclusion, it shall permeate the widest circle of them all, and that is government."

These prophetic words were never more applicable than to the needs of this generation. For as atheistic Russia is dedicated to the conquest of intangible space it is imperative that Christian America shall assume control of intoxicating spirits. As against this threat of another's atomic superiority our "land of the free" must not be content with alcoholic inferiority. We can not remain an isle of drunken privilege in a veritable sea of distressing privation. Nor can dynamic leadership be supplied to a needy world by a nation half-soaked and half-sober.

While some are excited about supersonic supremacy and others are striving for political priorities, let us enter the new decade with a determination to stop the wanton destruction of human life which results from the wilful uses of intoxicants. It is within the power of you churchmen and the gallant leaders of the 86th Congress to inspire decisions that will make of these ten years a period which the world needs to recognize as the "Sobering Sixties".

We have witnessed a saddening inauguration of the new year. During the first five days five persons were slaughtered in the District of Columbia by what the director of safety called "whisky and speed"! Three hundred seventy-four Americans were killed during the three-day New Year's weekend. The National Safety Council connects 55 percent of these casualties with drinking and driving. Last year 2,135,000 persons were injured, of whom two percent died within 100 hours after the accident. If only 30 percent of these people were victimized by what people called their "right to drink", we suffered the unnecessary loss of more than 24,000 persons whose right to live became subservient to somebody's license to drink.

The record is marred again by the scourge of alcoholism which now, as the nation's number three public health problem, virtually reduces a sizeable percentage of America's population to second-class citizenship. If you multiply our 5,100,000 known alcoholics by five, you get a glimpse of the hosts of our own people who are unwilling hos-

tages of the alcohol industry and its allies.

What about human rights in a culture where one out of every four mentally disturbed patients got there because of liquor? When we remember that there are nearly twice as many alcohol outlets as churches, it is not surprising that drinking is related to 60 percent of current arrests, 70 percent of America's broken homes and 75 percent of the stark poverty that invites our contributions through charities and United Givers' Funds.

Against this ugly background of end-results let us remember that in our beloved land five times as much money is being spent for cocktails as for Christianity.

It is within the power of the 86th Congress to give the nation some immediate relief from the daily threat of tragic accidents which pilots and stewards insist can momentarily result from serving liquor on airlines.

It is the province of this Congress to insure protection of the people from the continued invasion of American homes by the advertising of alcoholic beverages. In a day when we believe (though we cannot prove) that 80 percent of public media are dominated by the allies of the alcohol industry, how can we communicate to people the whole truth about alcohol. Because of a censorship phobia shall we of America quietly forfeit our citizenship franchise? It is not enough to say that "FCC and FAA have sufficient power to provide adequate protections for the normal life of this country". Their hands need to be strengthened by better federal laws and bolder demands of the faithful who care enough to try.

Despite the obvious curbs against free speech which now cripple the temperance forces, Americans have disciplined themselves to drink less! During the past eight years people like you have been able to reduce the total number of mature users of alcoholic beverages from a reported 70,000,000 to a documented (Gallup Poll) 56,900,000. Although some drinking problems are becoming more complicated, and the uses of alcoholic beverages constitute a continuing threat to our national security and personal stability. I have abiding confidence that the people of America will soon bring to an end the flagrant domination of society now indulged by the drinking custom.

The solution will not come alone from statutes. Answers will not come altogether through legislation. The amendment we presently need is the kind of disciplined living that Congress can help our churches to inspire.

We need nothing more than consecrated following of Christ. While the Schenley corporation is granting more scholarships to students who will educate people to drink, let us enlist more leaders in Christian discipleship and consecrated service for sobriety.

Our Master is still saying, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself daily, and follow me". It will take faith and fortitude to witness for Him in the wetness of our generation, but this is the hope of our survival in the sixties. Frances Willard inspires us to press the battle as we follow the gleam of His victorious banner. She and the galaxy of noble leaders who have gone before now bid us to

"Hold high the torch! You did not light its glow.
'Twas given you by other hands, you know.
'Tis yours to keep it burning bright
When you no more shall need that light.
Other forms go passing by your side
Other lives there are whom you may surely guide.

"They're watching your every tear and smile
And things which to you may not seem worthwhile
Are the very things they need,
Acts to which they'll give high heed.
"If brighter pathways should beckon you to choose
Compare the little you'd gain with the lot you'd lose.

"Hold high the torch! You did not light its glow

'Twas given you by other hands, you know
I think it must have started on its long pathway bright
The very day the Master said, "Let there be light!"
He also said who hung on Calvary's tree,
'Ye are the light of the world, go shine for Me'!

GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE-SECRECY

(Continued from page four)

justiceable, non-reviewable, unilateral right to withhold anything and everything" that they think ought to be kept from the people.

It is recognized that there is certain *classified* information which must, in the interest of national security, be kept secret. There is danger, however, in *uncontrolled* secret agencies, whose very secrecy gives them power, and powerful secret agencies, when they are in a position to dominate policy-making in government are perilous to the very existence of all democratic institutions.

"Drinking to any extent reduces the ability of any driver."

—National Safety Council

RESOLUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL TEMPERANCE AND PROHIBITION COUNCIL

(Continued from page six)

scrutiny by Congressional committees; and

WHEREAS drinking scenes and liquor and beer plugs are common practices on television programs which are watched by young people and children as well as adults, and constitute an inducement to drink; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Temperance and Prohibition Council urge upon the investigating committee a thorough study of these matters looking toward legislation to ban such practices which are not in the public interest.

Alcohol's Use In Armed Services

WHEREAS the widespread acceptance, approval and use of alcoholic beverages by our military forces in this country and at our bases around the world has tended to nullify legislation and regulations supposed to protect our men from the hazards of alcohol,

BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon those in authority, especially the secretary of defense, to eliminate the sale and discourage the use of alcohol, not only for the sake of the individuals involved, but also to increase the effectiveness of our forces.

Highway Safety

WHEREAS the driver "under the influence" is now our greatest highway hazard, and whereas chemical tests for the alcoholic content of a driver's body have reached a high level of reliability and acceptance in medical and traffic safety circles,

BE IT RESOLVED that we urge all states to pass chemical test laws, either with stated consent included on drivers' licenses or with implied consent laws operative to make these tests universal. We also ask Congress to pass such a law for the District of Columbia.

Education

A. The Church School.

WHEREAS the Church is free to present truth, and, realizing that instruction in alcohol education must begin at the earliest possible age, and continue through life; we recommend that churches in the United States,

1. Recognize the vital importance to the individual, to the church, to society, to the State and to God, of living a life free from the effect of alcoholic beverages; and to that end they take a clear-cut and aggressive stand for total abstinence for the individual and the elimination of the traffic in alcoholic beverages for society as a whole.

2. Plan to incorporate alcohol education within their church educational

curriculum, presenting objectively, the effects of beverage alcohol so all may make a wise choice regarding its use.

3. Be open always to truth and new scientific findings; remember that God's Word is Truth and the Truth shall prevail; do all in love for individuals who are or may become victims of the alcohol traffic; do all for the glory of God whose love for us passes understanding.

4. We recommend that constituent members of the Council avail themselves of such materials and visual aids as may be of use to them, which are available from member organizations for teaching education within the educational departments of the church.

B. The Public School.

Since most drinkers begin the practice during their years in school and since practically all of our states have requirements in their School Codes for instruction in the effects of alcohol and other narcotics on the human system, we recommend acquaintance with the law as it pertains to the local situation and insistence on the fulfillment of the law's requirements, and

WHEREAS some state highway departments have patrolmen ready to present facts about highway safety and the drinking driver, in the schools,

BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon those working for abstinence, to encourage every state highway department to provide such service, and also to see that patrolmen designated for this task have opportunities to appear before school groups.

Political Action

WHEREAS it is apparent that temperance legislation is being sidetracked by various departments of government, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we urge the concerned citizenry of our nation to take effective political action on behalf of the cause of Temperance and Prohibition at the grass roots level. Especially, do we urge that voters ask candidates for both houses of Congress and the Presidency, to make plain their views on proposed temperance legislation; furthermore, we urge support at the polls for those candidates only, who possess high personal integrity, strong moral convictions, and who take a forthright position against the liquor traffic.

Elizabeth A. Smart

WHEREAS Miss Elizabeth A. Smart served the National Temperance and Prohibition Council for many years as Secretary and as Chairman of the Legislative Committee, with devout consecration and great skill, and rendered outstanding service to the cause of temperance, we note her passing with deepest regret and pledge ourselves to carry on, to the best of our ability, the torch of temperance which she held so high.

Thank You

WHEREAS the commodious quarters of the Methodist Building have again been offered to the National Temperance Council, free of charge, and

WHEREAS Dr. Caradine Hooton has done much to facilitate our comfort and to assist in making the services of the building available, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that an expression of sincere appreciation be extended to the Building Management and to Dr. Hooton and his staff; also

BE IT RESOLVED that our thanks go to Dr. Hutchinson for his able presiding, also to members of the Program Committee for preparation and presentation of a challenging program. Especially do we thank Mrs. Hooton and Mrs. Montgomery for their presiding at the organ console.

THE HIGH COST OF SIN

(Continued from page three)

it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36) Oh, what a question! Yes, sin is awfully, AWFULLY costly. Then, does Christianity cost too much? A thousand times no!

A WAR OF THE AGES

(Continued from page two)

book on *Democracy in America.* For this he was elected to the Academy of Moral Science and to the French Academy. One paragraph germane to this discussion follows:

> "I hold it to be an impious and an execrable maxim that... a people has a right to do whatever it pleases .... The rights of every people are consequently confined within the limits of what is just.... if it be admitted that a man possessing absolute power may misuse that power by wronging his adversaries, why should a majority not be liable to the same reproach? Unlimited power is in itself a bad and dangerous thing. Human beings are not competent to exercise it with discretion. God only can be omnipotent, because His wisdom and His justice are always equal to His power. But no power on earth is so worthy of honor for itself that I would consent to admit its uncontrolled and all-predominant authority. When I see that the right and the means of absolute command.... are conferred on a people or upon a king, upon an aristocracy or a democracy, a monarchy or a republic, I recognize the germ of tyranny.

Pageant of the Ages

Descriptive of all this is the fascinating pageantry of the book of Revelation. It vividly depicts the raging war between right and wrong. It covers the period between the first and second comings of Christ. It is expressed as "1210 days," "time, times, and half a time," and "forty and two months," all of which mark the same expanse of time. The first eleven chapters picture the warfare between the Church and the world. Chapters 12 to 22 visualize the conflict between Christ and Satan.

Chapter 1 exalts Jesus Christ with such expressions as: "the prince of the kings of the earth"; the "Alpha and Omega"; the "first begotten of the dead" who is "alive for evermore."

The Apostle John then describes the warfare which takes place between Satan and the churches. Seven different churches are described. Satan had definitely succeeded in working his way into six of the seven.

Ephesus, while maintaining a degree of loyalty, had lost its love.

Pergamos had become guilty of shielding and encouraging false teaching.

Smyrna was infested with false brethren, who "say they are Jews and are not."

Thyatira was harboring unrepentant sinners.

Sardis was spiritually dead. "Thou hast a name that thou livest, but art dead."

Laodicea was a middle-of-the-roader: "neither cold nor hot," "I will spew thee out of my mouth."

Philadelphia was the only one of the seven churches that has nothing recorded against it. "Thou hast kept my word and hast not denied my name."

Satan is not only making war against the churches but, as we shall see later on, he is waging a life-or-death war against the nations.

This warfare began in heaven. "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (Rev. 12:7-9)

The prophet Isaiah dramatizes the same scene in these words: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.... I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit". (Isa. 14:12-15).

This is the War of the Ages!

MAR 7 - 1960

FROM THE STUDY WINDOW

David M. Carson

Head of the Department of Political Science, Geneva College

Effective Sabbath laws are always in a state of siege, beset by those who would like to destroy them. Sometimes, happily, their friends win a victory; but not a victory which lifts the siege.

The National Reform Association and similar groups will continue to be alert at the legislative level, seeking to defend the Sabbath laws. As Christian citizens, we are grateful for their service. But at best this is only a second line of defense.

The first line of defense is in the lives and the homes of Christians. If the Sabbath lives with us, then the friends of the Sabbath in the legislature will have good backing. If the Sabbath dies in the lives of Christians, no lobbying in the legislature will preserve it.

Sometimes those of us who should know better lend our weight to the attack:

Each time I make an unnecessary purchase—and careful planning can make all purchases unnecessary except in a real emergency—each time I buy gas or stop at the newsstand for a Sunday paper—I vote to keep all business open on the Sabbath.

Any recreational use of the day not in keeping with the highest purpose of the Sabbath—and this includes television within our own homes—is lending powerful influence to the enemies of the Sabbath.

Still more important than emptying the Sabbath of wrong is filling it with right. Any vacuum in the spiritual life the devil delights to fill. If we do not take care to fill the Sabbath brimful of good things, we shall lose it.

How? What can we do to make the Sabbath a delight? The center of the day should be the public worship of God. If we go to church with souls washed through prayers of confession, clothed with the righteousness of Christ, eager to discover God's blessing for us, the services of worship will be a joy. Many of us will have further responsibilities in the church school, at the very least attendance and preparation of the lesson.

In most of our churches there has been recent emphasis on the revival of individual Bible study, and many challenging methods are being publicized. Most of us find our daily devotions shorter than we would like; the Sabbath can be scheduled for some uninterrupted use of these methods in studying God's Word. The number of people for whom we should pray throng our prayer lists; the Sabbath can provide time for intercession. Certainly some time for adoration of and communion with our Lord, whom we love, will brighten and bless the Sabbath.

Christian reading abounds: Christian fiction; Christian biography; many non-technical works on theology; many good Christian periodicals.

Nor are the children to be neglected. There is good reading for children, both for those who can read and for those who are still being read to—have you seen "I Saw Four"? Bible games, carefully kept to play on the Sabbath, are good. My own childhood Sabbaths were brightened by Bible puzzles. Amos R. Wells' books are good fact-teachers. If the catechism can be made a family project, it loses some of its drudgery and pays life-long dividends.

Here our churches have a challenge and a responsibility: to provide an appealing, well-rounded library of Christian books for all ages and differing taste; to stimulate use of the library; to teach families means of making the Sabbath enjoyably useful.

Such a Sabbath, well-spent in the worship of God and our own growth in grace, is the first line of defense for maintaining the Sabbath in our society.